

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ENRG, WB

SUBJECT: COALITION SPLIT OVER POWER PLANT ISSUE

REF: USBERLIN 1944

SUMMARY: PROBLEM OF SITING BERLIN'S NEXT POWER PLANT HAS PROVED SO DIFFICULT THAT CITH'S SPD/FDP COALITION HAS NOW PUBLICLY SPLIT ON ISSUE, EACH BASING ITS POSITION ON ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. SENAT HAS APPOINTED ANOTHER EXPERT STUDY GROUP TO PRODUCE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH SENAT CAN SEEK TO AGREE BY MID-OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ACUTE PROBLEM OF WHERE TO LOCATE BERLIN'S NEXT ELECTRIC POWER PLANT IS CAUSING A PUBLIC CONTROVERSY BETWEEN CITY'S COALITION PARTNERS WHICH IS RECEIVING FULL PRESS COVERAGE. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DISCUSSION OVER WHETHER NEW POWER PLANT SHOULD BE LOCATED AT SITE OF PRESENT OBERHADEL POWER PLANT ON HAVEL SHORE, OR ONE MILE INLAND IN SPANDAU FOREST ALONGSIDE GDR

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BORDER. GOVERNING MAYOR, APPARENTLY STUNG BY

CRITICISM WITHIN SPD PARLIMENTARY CAUCUS FOR INDECISIVENESS AND HESITATION ON THE ISSUE, CAME OUT PUBLICLY EARLIER IN WEEK FOR LOCATION IN SPANDAU FOREST. FDP MAYOR LUEDER AND HIS CAUCUS HAVE BEEN PRESSING WITHIN SENAT FOR ORIGINALLY PLANNED OBER-HAVEL LOCATION. FOLLOWING SCHUETZ' STATEMENT, FDP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS LEADER EXPRESSED HIS ASTONISHMENT AND LUEDER'S DEPUTY IN ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT HAS SAID HE KNOWS NOTHING OF A SENAT DECISION REGARDING LOCATION.

2. BOTH SIDES JUSTIFY THEIR POSITIONS ON ENVRIONMENTAL GROUNDS. LOCATION IN FOREST TAKES PLANT AWAY FROM HAVEL AND TO SOME EXTENT HIDES IT. HOWEVER, THIS LOCATION IS SAID TO REQUIRE SOME 80 ACRES OF FOREST LAND AND THE CUTTING OF 55,000 TREES. GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY GIVEN BY BERLINERS TO RECREATION AND APPARENTLY WIDESPREAD LOCAL BELIEF THAT OXYGEN CONTENT OF CITY'S AIR DEPENDS ON NUMBER OF TREES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, TREE FACTOR ASSUMES POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.

3. THERE IS ALSO CONTROVERSY OVER WHO IS FINALLY TO DECIDE THE LOCATION. SENATOR LUEDER NOTES THAT THE SENAT MAY PROPOSE SUITABLE LOCATIONS, BUT IT IS UP TO THE SAPNDAU CITY COUNCIL TO CHOOSE AS SPECIFIED IN A SENAT POLICY DECISION OF LAST SPRING. SPANDAU OFFICIAL MOST INVOLVED WITH PROBLEM STATES SENAT MUST MAKE THE CHOICE, AND ASSERTS DISTRICT WILL IN ANY EVENT NOT AGREE TO SPANDAU LOCATION UNLESS SENAT PROVES THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE LOCATION ANYWHERE ELSE IN CITY. DISTRICT WILL FURTHER INSIST THAT ANY TREES LOST BE REPLACED ACRE FOR ACRE BY REFORESTING OTHER SPANDAU LOCATIONS NOW IN INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER USE. MEANWHILE, CITIZEN GROUP, CHICH CLAIMS THAT NEW POWER PLANT IS UNNECESSARY, IS THREATENING COURT SUIT REGRARDLESS OF SITE SELECTED.

4. AS NEXT STEP, SENAT HAS CONVENED ANOTHER EXPERTS WORKING GROUP TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A NEW POLICY DECISION BY THE FULL SENAT BY MID-OCTOBER, SUCH DECISION PRESUMABLY TO INCLUDE SITE AND INSISTENCE THAT FULL 600 MW OR EVEN 1200 MW BE PLACED AT SAME LOCATION. IT WILL BE RECALLED SENAT WENT THROUGH SAME PROCEDURE SIX MONTHS AGO AND PRODUCED A CONFUSED DECISION, TECHNICALLY STILL IN EFFECT, CALLING FOR 300 MW PLANT AT SITE TO BE DETERMINED BY SPANDAU DISTRICT OFFICIALS, WITH PRO-

VISIONS TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR SITE FOR THE NEXT
300 MW. THIS DEFECTIVE DECISION WILL PRESUMABLY NOW
BE SUPERSEDED.

5. ALLIED COMMANDANTS HAVE PLACED POWER PLANT
PROBLEM ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AT THEIR MONTHLY
MEETING WITH GOVERNING MAYOR SEPTEMBER 27. GEORGE

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